

NC★Domestic Violence Commission

Resolution in Support of Extreme Risk Protection Orders

February 10, 2023

Whereas, intimate partner violence and gun violence in the U.S. have been inextricably linked for decades, impacting millions of women, families, and communities across the country; and

Whereas, firearms are used in intimate partner violence more than any other weapon; and

Whereas, a woman is over five times more likely to be murdered when her abuser has access to a firearm; and

Whereas, two-thirds of female intimate partner homicide victims in the state and country are killed with a gun; and

Whereas, every month, an average of 57 to 70 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner in the United States; and

Whereas, nearly 1 million women alive today have reported being shot or shot at by intimate partners, and 4.5 million women have reported being threatened with a gun by an intimate partner; and

Whereas, firearm use increases the risk of multiple victims in domestic homicides; and

Whereas, firearms accounted for 61.7 percent of intimate partner violence-related child homicides between 2005 and 2014; and

Whereas, the deadly intersection of guns and intimate partner violence has a disproportionate impact on Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic women; and

Whereas, between 2009 and 2018, at least 54 percent of mass shootings, defined as shootings in which more than three people are killed in one event, were related to domestic or family violence; and

Whereas, between 2014 and 2019, more than two-thirds of mass shootings involved the perpetrator either killing a family member or intimate partner or having a history of domestic violence; and

Whereas, a national study found that female victims of interpersonal violence experienced abuse by a male partner who had threatened or attempted suicide 39 percent of the time; and

Whereas, domestic victimization is correlated with a higher rate of depression and suicidal behavior; and

Whereas, in 2019, 65 percent of all murder-suicides in the United States involved an intimate partner, and 92 percent of all murder-suicides involved a firearm; and

Whereas, research shows that access to a firearm triples one's risk of death by suicide; and

Whereas, suicide by firearm has a fatality rate of 90 percent as compared to a fatality rate of only four percent in people who attempt suicide using other methods; and

Whereas, the vast majority of survivors of suicide attempts do not go on to die by suicide; and

Whereas, reducing access to firearms by perpetrators of domestic violence has been shown to reduce intimate partner homicides by 13 percent; and

Whereas, on average, states with red flag laws had 11.25 firearm deaths per 100,000 residents while states without red flag laws averaged 17.5 firearm deaths per 100,000 residents in 2020; and

Whereas, 78 percent of polled North Carolina voters said they support red flag laws (with 59 percent of those same voters indicating they *strongly* support red flag laws), including a majority of self-identified Republicans, conservatives, and gun owners; and

Whereas, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act—national gun safety legislation which provides \$750 million to states to implement Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO or Red Flag Law) programs to keep guns out of the hands of people who are a threat to others or themselves—was signed into law in 2022, receiving support from both of North Carolina's U.S. Senators, Senator Richard Burr and Senator Thom Tillis.

Therefore, the North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission requests that the North Carolina General Assembly revisit adoption of Extreme Risk Protection Order legislation, such as [HB 525](#), to both protect North Carolina citizens from fatal firearm death and provide due process for respondents.